

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENTS

Issuance of Directives Regarding Preparation

The procedures published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, January 7, 1972 (37 F.R. 2331), have been revised.

Notice is given of the publication of the revised procedures of the Geological Survey to implement the policy and directives of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190, 83 Stat. 852, January 1, 1970); section 2(f) of Executive Order 11514 (March 5, 1979); the guidelines issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (36 F.R. 7724, April 23, 1971); Office of Management and Budget Bulletin No. 72-6 (September 14, 1971), and Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2, September 27, 1971).

Set forth below is the Geological Survey Manual Part 516, Chapter 2, entitled, "Environmental Impact Statements." The numbering system used is that of the Survey Manual.

V. E. McKELVEY,
Director.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Part 516—Survey Program Policies

Chapter 2—Environmental Impact Statements

1. *Purpose.* These procedures are to implement the policy and directives of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and to provide guidance in the preparation of environmental statements for major Federal actions conducted or supervised by the Geological Survey that significantly affect the quality of the human environment (Department of the Interior Manual 516 DM2).

2. *Policy.* All major actions proposed or recommended by the Geological Survey will be assessed for their environmental impact at an early stage in the decision making process. Environmental impact statements will be prepared on all legislation or major actions proposed by the Survey that are determined to have significant impact on the quality of the environment or that involve controversial issues. When suitable, Geological Survey Circular No. 645 will be used as a basic guide in making such determinations. The decision that any specific major action does not require an environmental impact statement will be documented and incorporated in the case record.

3. *Scope.* In addition to new major actions, the provisions of this chapter apply to continuing major actions that have a significant effect on the environment even though they arise from projects or programs that began before the effective date of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

A. *Actions that will require environmental impact statements.* Major actions that involve operations that could have a significant effect on the environment or that involve highly controversial environmental issues

will require an environmental impact statement before a decision is made to approve or undertake a specific activity. Such actions include but are not limited to applications for major radioactive tracer investigations; extensive earthquake-control experiments; and extensive new exploratory drilling program or mining operations in environmentally sensitive areas on Federal lands.

B. *Actions that may require an environmental impact statement.* Proposed actions, though minor, that may threaten harm or damage to the environment will be carefully assessed. If it is determined that such action will have a significant environmental impact, an environmental statement will be prepared. If it is concluded that the proposed action will not have a significant impact on the environment, this determination will be documented in the case record or field examination report.

Examples of such actions include applications to conduct geological or geophysical exploration utilizing explosives on the Outer Continental Shelf; applications to drill exploratory oil and gas and geothermal wells on Federal lands; original mining plans and major changes in mining plans on existing Federal leases; and applications for financial assistance under the Minerals Discovery Loan Program. In the last case, the Field Examination Report, prepared by the Survey Examiner, will include a statement covering environmental considerations of the proposed project.

C. *Program areas that generally will not require environmental impact statements.* Activities that generally will not require an environmental impact statement include:

- (1) Mapping and surveying activities;
- (2) Field and laboratory activities in connection with geologic and mineral resources investigations;
- (3) Stream gaging, routine hydrologic test drilling, well logging, aquifer response testing, and similar data-gathering activities in connection with water resources investigations;
- (4) Development drilling, secondary recovery projects, and pressure maintenance projects on Federal leases.

(4) Development drilling, secondary recovery projects, and pressure maintenance projects on Federal leases.

4. *Responsibilities.* A. The Director, in consultation with the Assistant Director—Research and appropriate Division Chief(s), shall designate the officials responsible for reviewing Survey actions that have been identified as having a significant impact on the environment and for preparing the environmental impact statement. He may assign primary responsibility to individuals or to organizational units, in the field or at headquarters level, for coordinating the viewpoints of all interested Survey organizational units, as well as other governmental or private groups, and for preparing the statement. He may also assign this responsibility to a task force under the chairmanship of the organizational unit having primary interest.

B. Division Chiefs or heads of other Survey organizational units shall be responsible for identifying proposed actions that have a significant impact on the environment among the activities to be initiated or implemented in their Divisions or organizational units.

C. Officials designated as responsible for preparation of impact statements shall be responsible for: (1) Consulting with appropriate bureaus or offices, other Federal agencies, and other appropriate sources of special

environmental expertise not available within the Survey;

(2) Preparing the proposed draft statements and ensuring that they fully consider and reflect the information obtained;

(3) Transmitting copies of draft environmental statements, as endorsed by the Assistant Secretary—Program Policy, to Federal agencies with jurisdiction by law or special environmental expertise, to State and local agencies authorized to develop or enforce environmental standards, and to private organizations with an expressed or known interest in the proposal;

(4) Giving public notice in the manner provided in Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2) of the availability of draft environmental statements and inviting comments;

(5) Consulting with all bureaus and offices and other Federal agencies submitting comments, where appropriate;

(6) Preparing proposed final environmental statements and insuring that all relevant comments are considered therein;

(7) Transmitting copies of final environmental statements, as endorsed by the Assistant Secretary—Program Policy, to all Interior Department bureaus and offices; other Federal, State, and local agencies; and private organizations from whom comments were solicited.

5. *Procedures.* All environmental impact statements shall be prepared and processed in accordance with guidelines contained in Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 2).

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Consumer and Marketing Service GRAIN STANDARDS

Lewiston, Idaho, Grain Inspection Point

Statement of considerations. Harold and Virginia Whitcomb, Lewiston, Idaho, have proposed that their designation under section 3(m) of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 75(m)) to operate the official grain inspection agency at Lewiston, Idaho, be transferred.

Edwin T. Matchey, Lewiston, Idaho, has applied for designation (in accordance with § 26.97 of the regulations (7 CFR 26.97) under the U.S. Grain Standards Act) to operate the official grain inspection agency at Lewiston, Idaho. This application does not preclude other interested agencies and persons from making similar applications.

Other interested persons are hereby given opportunity to make application for designation to operate an official inspection agency at Lewiston, Idaho, according to the requirements in § 26.97 of the regulations (7 CFR 26.97) under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. Note: Section 7(f) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 79(f)) generally provides that not more than one inspection agency shall be operative at any one time for any one city, town, or other area.